

Point Three



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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House — the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points — to think fairly.

Cover picture

Four members of Bridlington TAG letting their hair down at a fund raising fancy dress party they organised recently.

Photo: Hull Daily Mail

Personal View

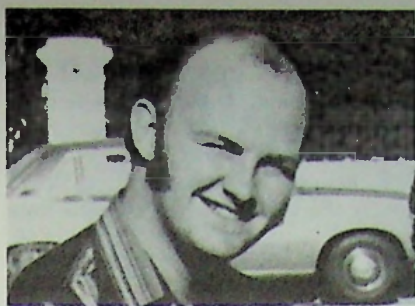
'With, not for!'

Going off the rails is a human speciality. We all do it from time to time, both individually and corporately. The history of Toc H is punctuated with occasions when we have seemed to be on the verge of doing just that. Sometimes it has been the temptation to chase some phantom 'solution' to our problems or to get lured into something which seems excitingly, if misleadingly, modern. At other times there has been the danger of losing sight of something that, when we reflect, we believe to be a basic ingredient of what we call Toc H. On some occasions the leadership has acted to steer the Movement to a better path. More often the correctives have come powerfully from the grass roots. Individuals and groups do or say certain things which serve to remind us what the Movement is really all about. Arguably, one of these occurred in a small way during 1984.

There is a report, in this issue, of a 'different' sort of project in Surrey, in which a group of volunteers, some of them mentally handicapped, undertook conservation work with the National Trust. The work itself, and the activities of the project group are in no way exceptional — what is exciting is that a few members felt it was important that we really tried to do things 'with' those who are mentally handicapped, and not just 'for' them, and they accomplished just that. In the process they discovered that they could be friends, on the basis of being equal partners. Simple as it may seem, it is also a profoundly important statement about our approach to people, which must surely include a recognition that everyone has something to give.

There is a fine tradition of such incidents in Toc H. The very concept of 'Friendship Circles' in the North East stems from the same perspective and those who have offered to help have had to learn that their contribution can be meeting and working with people who have been ill rather than doing things for them. Perhaps one of the finest examples of this approach came in the period, of the 50s and 60s, when Leonard Cheshire's initiative was leading to the creation of numerous Cheshire Homes. The establishment of such Homes was met with a great readiness to help by local people and organisations, and in a number of places, including the very first Home in Hampshire, that included local Toc H. In some places, however, Toc H made a rather different contribution. These were the places where Toc H started Branches in the Homes themselves and by doing so made the clear statement that we saw residents, however badly handicapped, as fellow members and co-workers, and not just as the recipients of our help. I vividly recall the occasion at a Cheshire Home in Wales when the Toc H Branch, all but two of whom were in wheelchairs, travelled to the nearby town to do Christmas shopping, and the gifts they bought were to be given to the folk in the nearby old people's home! There are still a number of Branches in Cheshire Homes that witness to the same reality — that every one has some contribution to make. Toc H has assumed that residents would wish to help, and that assumption has been proved correct. It is always very easy to perceive the world as a sort of two-tier place, in which, above a sort of horizontal dividing line, are all the 'helpers' (which, of course, includes us) and below that line are all the various types of people who are the 'helped'. That may be tempting but it is the very view that deserves the title of 'dogoodery'. It is dangerously untrue, and profoundly contrary to the view of the individual which we seek to demonstrate. That view is that everyone has something to give, and if we suffocate that rich potential by labelling a person as only a recipient, we do irreparable damage to them and to our relationships with them.

Of course there are times when we all need to be on the receiving end, and times when it is right to give help without pondering the other side of the coin. But such times pass, and if those who have helped us do not let us give something to them, we feel uncomfortable and devalued. Toc H is concerned with the revaluation of people in a world in which the individual is so devalued. Part of revaluing people is to recognise and celebrate what they have to offer, however unlikely that may seem when you first meet them. It is at its most difficult to imagine when one first meets a child with the severest mental handicap, yet the experience of every volunteer who becomes really involved has been that they receive as well as give. Maybe what such children can give is limited to a hug, or a giggle, but if we are too blind to recognise such things as gifts, we diminish ourselves and the giver. Maybe there are people around who would be only too delighted if we paused, for a minute, in our work of helping them, and asked them to help us or to work with us to help others. We might be surprised at the response.



THE MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

by Arend Hoogervorst

I first visited South Africa in 1976 as a member of the Toc H UK team. At the end of my visit I was asked if I would be interested in returning to South Africa as a Toc H field staff officer. Africa is very much like malaria — once it gets into your blood you never lose it — and, consequently, I agreed to go back once I had completed my studies. I returned to South Africa in January 1979 and worked for Toc H on the field staff until January 1981 when I left to commence a career, as an Environmental Scientist with the South African Department of Environment Affairs. I continue to be involved with Toc H as a member and am also heavily involved with the Hospice Association of the Witwatersrand which cares for the terminally ill.

First impressions

My first impressions were shocking. Here was I, a well educated middle class individual suddenly exposed to poverty and a different culture that I found quite traumatic. I had seen tramps in Britain, but the sight of a beggar who had nothing — no money, no dignity, no shame and no future — had a stark effect on me. I felt anger when I saw blacks forced to walk in gutters and eking out a living from back breaking jobs.

I must add, however, that it was Toc H that helped me to temper my anger and frustration by showing that there was right with wrong and good with evil. To judge on first sight was not a reasonable or constructive course of action. All four points of the Compass — Fellowship, Service, Fairmindedness and the Kingdom of God, pilot us towards constructive and practical response. Looking through Toc H coloured spectacles gave a different impression. The impression was *'don't concentrate on what is wrong but find ways and means of doing and reinforcing what is right'*. I remember having long talks with members about the value of Toc H. Were we doing enough or the right thing? One answer which sticks in my mind was *'Tubby didn't try and stop World War One but Talbot House helped many, many men to cope and look to a future with more hope'*.

Working in South Africa

I was very fortunate during my two years on the field staff to spend a considerable

amount of time travelling and working throughout the length and breadth of South Africa giving me, probably, a wider picture of South African society than most South Africans themselves. I worked in black, white and coloured areas and began to get a thumbnail sketch of what made South Africa 'tick'.

I saw apartheid; I saw problems; I saw pain; and I saw suffering but I also saw hope and I still see it. I encountered an incredible amount of goodwill on the part of ordinary people. Those people were not political activists or reformers. They were people who did their own little thing towards what they thought was right. They did it without fanfare or publicity and gave of both themselves and their possessions. They demonstrated a level of humanity, love and concern which can be found throughout the world. They did it because they felt it was right and not because their political leaning pushed them one way or the other.

Toc H has played, and is playing, a vitally important role in the growth and development of South African society. Many others, too, are working hard towards a better understanding and equality between people in a country that has two official 'white' languages and eight official 'black' languages; a gulf of culture that stretches from primitive, illiterate and rural to sophisticated, literate and urban; from Christian to tribal Gods and spiritual ancestors; from pressurised, industrial *'time is money'* to rural *'tomorrow will do but so will the day after'*. Essentially, there is a great need to establish communication and this is no easy task because it requires compromise and understanding from all.

I know my black friends in Soweto will smile when I recall a technique I used to ensure joint meetings were attended by both blacks and whites at the right time. The starting time for a meeting would be, say, 4 o'clock in the afternoon. I would tell the white attenders to be there at four and the blacks at two, in that way ensuring all would be there by four! I recount that incident not to deride my black friends for their tardy time-keeping but as an example of how time is treated by different cultures. One culture treats

it like a God whilst the other adopts the attitude that *'I will get there as soon as I can but if I meet a long forgotten friend on the way I will share time with that friend and not sacrifice fellowship for an inhuman artificial clock'*.

Living in South Africa

I have made South Africa my home and it has become a place that I love and cherish. The country provides a pioneering challenge that is rare in this rapidly developing, urbanising, high speed world. As in all challenging situations, there are many problems and hurdles to overcome and ultimately sacrifices must be made. It is a test of my Christian faith to share and to sacrifice.

In the short time I have been in South Africa, I have noticed changes and improvements in relationships and attitudes. I feel that the urban black has been given more dignity and status. The negative side of this is that he is fast becoming another anonymous person hurrying to work, speaking to no-one, and isolating himself. The black man is fast becoming an economic force to be reckoned with as his disposable income increases faster than the white man.

Thoughts for the Future

Changes in South Africa will never occur fast enough to satisfy the critic. Change should be a positive process for the better and should create a solid base for further change. I believe that movements like Toc H are a crucial part of the cutting edge of change. This is because Toc H has no ulterior motive for change other than as a function of community caring and the common good. Against the backdrop of the Main Resolution, Toc H in South Africa has been able to remain a neutral, but vital, force in helping communication within the country. Change has not progressed far enough, but it is moving.

I still feel a tremendous sense of hope for the future in South Africa. I rejoice in the fact that Toc H as a Movement is able to help in fashioning and guiding the future of communities in many countries. This I believe will continue so long as we as a Movement return every time to the corner stones of our foundation — The Main Resolution and The Four Points of the Compass.

Round and about

Peter East Fund

Huddersfield (J) Branch have sent £10 to the Peter East Fund, for his work in Bangladesh. Audrey Elvin writes: *'We turned to our hot cups of tea and our buns and biscuits, in front of the comfortable gas fire, and felt that we must do something to help someone who has given up so many comforts in the name of Toc H'.*

Mini-Handi at Carisbrooke

A Mini-Handi disco was held at Carisbrooke recently. The handicapped dancers came from all parts of the Isle of Wight and the Hospital Broadcasting Association provided the disc jockey.

Mobility in Ely

Cambridge District has bought three wheelchairs to help the old and infirm be more mobile. Chairman Geoff Heathcock says: *'It is only a start. Let's hope others will use it as a springboard operation'.*

'Granny Vera's walk(s)'

The full story of Vera Andrew's walk round the whole British coastline appeared in our November 1983 and April 1984 issues. She had practical help from a number of Toc H members and Branches. The picture shows Vera (right) with Lily Phipps (Ilford & Seven Kings Women's Branch). Vera spent two days resting in Lily's home towards the end of her 3,600 mile walk.



Photo: Ilford Recorder

Parkhurst Ladies (IOW) Branch held their annual Christmas Market on 13 November. The stalls laden with cakes, produce and handicraft raised a grand total of £441. The Branch has forwarded £350 to Family Purse and the balance to local charities.

On the move in the Isle of Wight

Don Webster, Chairman of the Isle of Wight District, recently raised £250 by a sponsored cycle ride around the Island. Half will go to Wessex Kidney Patients Association, and half to the District Project planned for September 1985. It is hoped that 15 Branch members, and 15 young people (including some from the Tic Tocs, a group in Carisbrooke High School) will spend a weekend together to share and exchange ideas. The long term aim is to start a new school group at Sandown High School.

New growth in the Valleys

We are delighted to hear of the start of a new Women's group at Treforest, in Glamorgan. Mrs Dot Warlow, the widow of the first Secretary of the Treforest (M) Branch has launched this new initiative, and we send our good wishes to her and the group.

Forthcoming Events

Alison House

Accent on Poetry – 3-6 May 1985

The emphasis of this annual poetry conference sponsored by Toc H is on a friendly but thoughtful atmosphere for a shared experience of poetry, including reading and response to each others' work and talks by those attending the conference.

Anyone who would like to be included in the organiser's mailing list should write to: Patrick Huddie, 13 Moray Close, Rise Park, Romford, Essex RM1 4YJ, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. The cost for full board and accommodation for the three nights is £31.25 per person.

Painting Holiday – 3-10 August 1985

'I wish I could draw – I can't even draw a straight line'. This cry from the heart is the preface of one of the books written for beginners in the arts. The urge to do something creative is a deeply rooted instinct which is evident in the large number of people who find pleasure in all kinds of arts and crafts.

Toc H tries in many ways to create friendships across the barriers that separate people of different backgrounds. For several years past, small groups of people (about 20 to 30) have met annually at Alison House in the summer for a tutored general painting holiday with an emphasis on outdoor painting (landscape etc). Experienced painters meet and work with newcomers who may be enthusiastic beginners – all wanting to develop their interest in art. If rain stops play there is a studio where they can try their hand at portraits or still life.

Harry Muscutt, a professional artist, helps and encourages all who come, be they beginners or experienced artists. He demonstrates or gives general talks on composition, perspective, methods etc. He also demonstrates other skills such as collage, embroidery and calligraphy. Evening sessions after dinner provide opportunities for talks and slide shows.

During the week we take time off to visit one of the many stately homes in Derbyshire. We also try to spend one evening at a theatre.

The cost in 1985 is £61 per person in a shared twin room and £66 per single room for full board and accommodation. As is usual in Toc H, we make our own beds and have 'rotas' for washing up after meals and laying tables.

Booking forms can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Alan Robson, Alison House, Intake Lane, Cromford, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3RH.

'A Springtime Holiday in Norfolk'

4-11 May 1985 Cost £98

This Holiday is with a small group of people, sharing a week of walking, bird watching, and looking at places of historic interest together. Accommodation in a small private hotel in the seaside resort of Hunstanton. The cost of this week is inclusive of accommodation, all meals and daily outings etc.

Enquiries to Mrs Olive Tennant, 170 Dereham Road, New Costessey, Norwich NR5 0SX. Telephone: 0603 742775.

Tubby remembered



The plaque commemorating Tubby Clayton in Beaulieu Abbey Church, Hampshire. Tubby spent Christmas and Easter at Beaulieu most years and a local committee, headed by Lord Montagu, raised the money for the plaque to mark this link. The plaque was unveiled by the Archbishop of Canterbury, a Toc H President, in the presence of many Toc H members from the Southern Region and further afield.

Summer Holiday

Jack Morley writes to tell us of the South East Kent's 13th annual Children's Holiday. *'Last year's holiday was held at The Towers School at Ashford in July and catered for 14 mentally and/or physically handicapped children. They were cared for by 16 young volunteers from as far afield as Lancing, Weymouth, Kempston and Norwich. Some of the children and a few of the volunteers had met before but, with the support of a few local Toc H members and two excellent cooks, all soon settled into a happy and harmonious party.'*

'The mornings were spent in and around this fine school enjoying its splendid amenities, including sports hall and swimming pool, and making use of other equipment suitable for handicapped youngsters loaned by another local school. They were visited by the Mayor of Ashford and by Punch and Judy, and spent one morning at the nearby fire station.'

'Every afternoon, after a cooked dinner, a coach took the whole party on a variety of interesting outings. At Dymchurch a group photograph was taken in the Fun Fair before enjoying the excitements of the Bump-em Cars, the Carousel, the Haunted House. Then on the Smallest Public Railway in the World to picnic at Hythe.'

'On other days they enjoyed a launch trip on Bewlbridge Reservoir, bathed at Folkestone Sands, boated on Hythe Canal, and saw many fine and unusual animals at the lovely Lympe Park Zoo.'

'With fine, sunny weather, no serious alarms or sickness, and a lot of hard and dedicated work by the volunteers the week was voted a happy success. South East Kent Toc H are grateful to so many who gave of time and money, and in kind, to make it all possible.'



An old picture (1982) just received but marking a great occasion – the 55th birthday of the former Cowes (IOW) Branch.

Photo: Dave Ruiner

Fruits of a Day Conference

Ralph Scarbro reports that on 6 October six members of Coningsby Branch attended the day conference at Newark. After listening to the speakers, they all became aware that there must be something more they themselves could be doing for the community.

During lunch one member came up with an idea that there was a need for a club for Senior Citizens in Coningsby and Tattershall. They all agreed and immediately committed themselves to this project if a suitable meeting place could be found. Later that same evening one member contacted the local Scout Master with the view to using their HQ as a meeting place, and he agreed to let them use it at a nominal figure. The next step was to get the backing of the Branch. This proved to be no problem, all members giving their support, plus a donation of £10 to get them off the ground. The six members who attended the conference were asked to form a committee and they invited any members to a meeting the following day and a committee of 11 was formed. They agreed to hold the meetings weekly on a Thursday afternoon from 2-4 pm and named it the Thursday Club. Due to early retirement and redundancies it was decided to fix the age group to 50 years and over. The following week one

committee member held a 'scrapbook evening' to raise funds for this venture. On the first meeting day, 1 November, they waited with excitement and a little apprehension to see what sort of response they would get. Much to their delight 43 people turned up proving that there was a need. The Chairman, Mrs P Heale, welcomed them and asked for suggestions as to what they would like to do at future meetings, and this brought several ideas to work on. Games of Whist and Dominoes completed the first afternoon. The second meeting they had 45 members and a Whist Drive was organised. The third meeting attracted 58 people and so it seems they have found just what the community needs.

'The moral of this story is' had those six members not attended that conference in Newark and been so impressed by the young speakers there and what they were doing, this project would never have been thought of.

Toc H castigates NALGO

The Willesden and Brent Chronicle reports that the Day of Action, called by the Town Hall unions in protest at the Government's rate-capping plans, has left the Toc H Blind Social Club 'hopping mad'. Doris Goodall, the organiser, wrote to NALGO after the one day strike deploring the action and demanding recompense for the extra expense it had caused the club. Members are usually brought to the club by council drivers and escorts, and on the Day of Action much extra effort and expense was incurred in keeping the club going. *'It is most unkind and inhuman to penalise such people'* said Doris. *'Our activities are planned and confirmed well in advance, and we do not expect people like you to put a spanner in the works!'* The NALGO spokesman was unavailable for comment!



Photos: Don Woolley

THE CROSSROADS

by Tim Richards

(A personal view of the future)

I believe that the human race is faced with a choice in the shape of a Y-junction where the route that we take will be crucial to our future and, perhaps, even our survival. We have reached a point where our knowledge and technological abilities have outstripped our sense of proportion and our moral capacities. Unless we rethink our definition of the word 'progress' we shall, by default, slither on to the left hand, downhill road with terrible consequences, increasing in severity. The further we travel down this road, the harder it will be to begin the inevitable return towards sanity and harmony.

The Left Hand Road

It is not that innovation is bad of itself. For example, if new technology, could be harnessed for the benefit of all and not simply for the profit of the elite, then the resulting liberation could result in a wonderful flowering of artistic and spiritual endeavour. If, however, the masses of the developed world refuse to raise their aspirations higher than bigger and better cars, washing machines, and televisions, then the decision making power will remain in the hands of the selfish few, and so will the benefits. It could be that the thinking 'prole' of 2034 – if such a being were permitted to exist – would consider George Orwell's vision to be a positive idyll.

All this is assuming that 'the bomb' is not dropped meanwhile. Nuclear war would cause the deaths, instantaneous or lingering, of the majority of the world's population, leaving planetary conditions which would be extremely hostile to any survivors. The prospect is so horrendous that no sane person would be able to push the button but, unless the present arsenals are run down, a cloud of fear will continue to hang over us, causing many to live as if there will be no tomorrow, others to long for yesterday, but only a few to plan confidently for the future.

Another horrifying consequence of mankind's present orientation could be the refusal by an overburdened planet to sustain the assaults upon it of a short sighted and rapacious parasite. Already we are seeing climatic variations and ecological imbalances which are the result of our conversion of precious resources such as oil, timber, minerals, even the soil itself, into noxious emissions which we then scatter liberally by land, sea and air. So far we have relied on the ability of nature to cleanse and restore itself in much the same way as the human body utilises its immune system and regenerative powers to remain healthy. Alas, there is no human agency capable of producing an equivalent of a wonder drug to alleviate the sufferings of our globe. Our only hope lies in curbing our

vices until we learn sufficient about their effects to be able to indulge in them temperately. The prognosis is plain enough to encourage us to repent before we kill or cripple our life support system through excess.

Sociologically, too, we are inflicting upon ourselves immense harm which can be undone only with great difficulty. In our headlong pursuit of materiality with so little attempt to balance ourselves by spiritual ideals, we are in the process of creating a generation of moral eunuchs. The average citizens of 'civilised' countries have compromised and ignored so much that their moral judgement has atrophied to an alarming extent. Most people are content to allow their finer impulses to be vicariously shouldered by bodies such as the United Nations, charities, Welfare States and paid emergency services and, when evil appears, feel entitled to leave others to deal with it. Once their taxes are paid, they feel no need to improve society, let alone humanity. Many well meaning people are so appalled by the schizophrenic society which they find around them that they are retreating into cocoons of home and family, only venturing forth to earn money and for other necessities. Understandable though it is, the isolationist or 'don't get involved' approach only makes it easier for chaos to reign. In such an ethical

CHECKS AND BALANCES?

Our January issue covered some of the Questions raised at the Central Council in November, and the answers given. Time prevented Council from dealing with all the questions that Councillors wished to ask, and one, in particular, seems sufficiently important to deserve a full reply here.

Charles Huggett (Councillor, Broadland)

asked: 'Just how accountable are the CEC to Council? In fact are they accountable at all?

There are predictably two types of answers to this question – the formal, constitutional answer, and the real answer. The latter is clearly a personal viewpoint and is offered as such.

Under the Royal Charter, the Council elects the CEC annually, at its Annual Meeting, and the size of the CEC must be between eight and 18 people. The CEC is 'subject to the supreme control' of the Council, and, under the Byelaws its 'powers, duties and proceedings shall be such as may from time to time be prescribed by the Central Council'. In addition to the Annual Meeting, a Special Meeting of the Central Council may be convened by the Director at any time, or must be convened by him if he is requested to do so by at least ten Central Councillors. At such Special Meetings, the Council may transact any business of

which prior notice has been given. At such meetings Council has its full powers, and that includes the removal of any member of the CEC. Presumably, although the Byelaws do not state it, the Council could remove all and elect a new CEC, provided that notice of such intention was given in the proper way. The Charter therefore envisages a situation in which the Council is clearly the controlling body, and can dictate what the Executive should do, monitor that progress and, in extremis, remove and replace the Executive if it is not satisfied.

The reality is very different. It is over ten years since the Central Council had a Special Meeting and that one was convened by the Director on behalf of the CEC, and not by Councillors. I am not aware of any occasion in recent history, if at all, when ten Councillors have exercised their right to call a meeting. It was attempted in 1982, when many Councillors were concerned at

vacuum, it is not surprising that large numbers of young people, raised with little moral education and shown such a poor example, should feel alienated from and frustrated by the society which they find. Increasing numbers, unable to articulate the deep unease which they feel, become drug addicts, mentally unstable, or turn to crime or other anti-social activities.

The Right Hand Road

Cleansing myself, with relief, from thoughts of gloom and doom, let me offer an alternative scenario. There lies before us, too, a right hand road. Narrower, it is true, certainly more uphill, and requiring more imagination to follow, but it offers such a glorious hope that I shall try to carry you with me as far as we can go.

Notwithstanding the manifest evils of the world as we have made it, there are several signs of a spiritual regeneration or heightening of consciousness. The charismatic movement within the Christian churches, the spread of mysticism and meditation, and the upsurge of fringe religions of varying desirability, all bear witness to this.

Anti-nuclear and peace campaigners are gradually gaining in influence and, when the ground swell of public opinion on both sides of the cold war gains sufficient momentum, our leaders will be forced to negotiate the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear and the majority of conventional weapons. The expenditure of a small fraction of present military budgets would be sufficient to eradicate most of the endemic disease and famine in the world.

Ecological pressure groups are gaining ground in such areas as the preservation of flora and fauna, the limitation of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and conservation and anti-pollution in general. In the medical field there is a growing recognition of the value of so-called 'fringe' disciplines such as acupuncture, herbalism and homeopathy at the same time as the side effects and lessening effectiveness of synthetic drugs are becoming recognised. The vistas of genetic and biological engineering are beginning to open up but there is already an awareness that the pioneering scientists must be made accountable to the wider society.

With the spread of rapid communication and transport the idea of a global village is gaining credence and, although a world government may be a distant dream, such organisations as the United Nations, the EEC and the Commonwealth are pointing in that direction, perhaps also the Warsaw Pact. The statesmen who helped prepare the 'Brandt Report' on North-South inequalities recognised that the different races belong to one human family and that the developed nations need the third world as much as it needs them. The governments of the 'haves' are as yet reluctant to acknowledge this although they are making token efforts with development aid and disaster relief. However, many of their citizens are making sacrifices in order to support charities which are engaged in this work.

So, in various fields and in many different ways, it can be seen that our attitudes are changing towards each other and towards our home, planet Earth.

Underpinning all this is the salt of the earth, that unsung band of saints and heroes, including many Toc H members, who unobtrusively lead their lives as good citizens and neighbours.

It could be said that mankind is being pulled in two different directions. As I stated at the beginning of this article, the mass of humanity seems content to be carried with the tide of mechanistic materialism whilst a small but growing minority are using their influence and effort to guide us towards a future based on more lasting values. I think that the best hope for our future lies in the ability of this nucleus to attract to it people of goodwill who will, in turn, reach others. Gradually the consciousness of our intended role in this earthy drama will dawn and 'progress' on the downward path can be arrested and reversed.

I can foresee a time around the turn of the century when technology will be harnessed for the good of all and man will live in harmony with the planet. Increased leisure, if used for the development of spirituality, could lead to a return to a simpler life, bringing with it improved physical and mental health.

What I have written so far is simply a projection of what I see around me into two possible futures. I leave my readers to choose between them and to form their own ideas about the one factor I have omitted, that of Divine intervention. Of one thing I am sure: that Toc H members, individually and collectively, have a great opportunity to influence the eventual outcome.

Let's take it.

some personnel decisions made by the CEC, but for a number of reasons the attempt failed, and there was an informal conference instead.

By and large, the CEC is now the major source of policy for the Movement. Most new strands of policy, even if they are passed at Central Council, have been fashioned and presented by the CEC. This is quite normal as a small coherent group who meet regularly are in a much stronger position to promote their views successfully than a much larger gathering of people who only meet once a year, and, in most cases, only know a handful of their fellow-Councillors. In their role as 'monitors', too, the Councillors are at a great disadvantage. They receive regular reports of decisions of the CEC, and are free to complain, ask questions and generally make their feelings known — as they should. Nevertheless, their actual power to change decisions is more or less non-existent. The cumbersome procedure of finding other Councillors prepared to

support an emergency meeting and all the complications about formal notice etc, mean, at best, a delay of weeks, if not months. In addition the chances of a significant number of Councillors being free and able to attend are remote, which would quite possibly mean that the CEC members present would command a majority!

Apart from that major way of registering dissatisfaction, the Councillors have little power to control. At the Council meeting itself they may ask questions, or take the CEC to task for failures or improprieties but, having done so, their only actual sanction is to vote in a new Executive instead. That, in turn, requires a broad slate of candidates — which we seldom achieve, and thus a sitting CEC member can prove unremovable.

At Council 1984 some criticism was levelled at the outgoing CEC, but then Council re-elected every member of that outgoing CEC who was standing for

re-election. To a large extent, the accountability of the CEC is non-existent.

Of course, Toc H is not run on formal, legalistic lines. It is a matter of trust, and it is only infrequently that CECs, over the years, have done anything other than merit the trust the Council places in them. For Councillors to monitor the CEC closely might be seen as a denial of trust, which would be sad. Nevertheless, it is no good denying that, as we stand at present, the CEC can actually, if it so chooses, go its own way with very little chance of its controlling body being able to do anything but shout at the time, and grumble later. Certainly more shouting would be very healthy, but it is not surprising that some Councillors smile wryly when told that they are part of the supreme body of the Movement. The issue that faces us today is how we can change the emphasis so that Councillors can genuinely feel that they are just that.

JEM

Holiday with a Difference— 'Chopping down Trees'

by Ricardo Neufville
and Mandy Caley

One of the many problems facing people who are handicapped is that others often assume that they have far more limitations than they really do and have little use in society. During 1984 a group of Toc H volunteers challenged this sort of thinking in the best way possible. Led by Rick Neufville and Mandy Caley they proved that a group of able bodied mentally handicapped adults *can* 'do a project' — if the ingredients are right! They lived and worked together as equal members of the group of 12 and learned the chores and the best possible way to get them done. The main focus for the project was 'conserving the beauty of the countryside' for the National Trust. They worked hard together, and they made friends.

The design of the project was a little different from most Toc H projects. Originally conceived by the then SE Regional LTV, Helen Powell, we planned to have a pilot weekend in April followed by a full week in the Summer with the same participants. The pilot weekend was felt essential to give all concerned, including our sponsoring district — Surrey — the National Trust and ourselves the chance to test the feasibility of the idea.

From a leadership point of view, we learned that we would need a variety of tasks to prevent boredom, and jobs that would show appreciable results. Plans with Bob, the Warden at our base, were made accordingly. During the summer we had tasks ranging from making fencing posts to scrub clearing — including chopping down trees.



Group life during the project was exciting and totally unstructured! As leaders, we felt an unstructured approach was needed to encourage total group participation as much as possible. This proved successful. Everyone was encouraged to take part in the day to day activities.

We had a varied and lively social life. We negotiated the use of Dorking Swimming Baths for two hours on two mornings of the project; we attended a local National Trust Fair and Firework Display, and we 'occasionally' went to the 'local' for a pint (or two!) and a game of darts. Young friends socialising in a very ordinary way — 'no big deal', you might think, but meaning so much to those who rarely get the opportunity just to join in and be part of a crowd having fun and sharing an evening together. This proved to be a great favourite, and we were often joined by Bob, the Warden, his wife Jenny and his assistant, John, who were a tower of strength throughout both projects.

As we were a small unit a family atmosphere soon developed, Rick taking on the role of 'dad' and Mandy 'mum'. Jose was a 'whizz kid' in the kitchen and we all enjoyed his apple pies. David beat everyone at darts. Johnny taught us some basic makaton sign language and Michael was the star at our party showing off his dancing talents. We never got lost when out in the minibus (even with Anne driving!) as David proved to be an expert navigator, as he knew the locality like the back of his hand! During the longer project we invited members of local Branches to join us one evening. It was encouraging to see such a demonstration of interest and support, but some of the project group found this rather intimidating and a lesson was learned for the future.

A new group in Harrow has decided to adopt this as one of their on-going projects. With some of the original team and a few extra volunteers we ran another weekend in November. We ran this largely on a self-financing basis but were overwhelmed by the support we received from one of the original volunteers who could not make the weekend but sent a small donation towards the project. We were also encouraged by the Surrey group who also made a contribution.

We hope this article has illustrated that the theory behind this concept can work. We have deliberately made no distinction between any member of the group as we were a group of young people sharing and enjoying experiences together. However, just to highlight our point, the volunteer who was unable to join the weekend in November but who felt the project meant so much to him personally that he expressed his thanks by making a donation, was in fact one of the handicapped volunteers.



Walesby Forest – July 1984

This July I not only experienced Toc H for the first time, but also 24 hour exposure to a group of 18 (6-11 year olds) from the Wellingborough area. 13 volunteers, including myself, took this group of youngsters (affectionately known as 'bratlets' by some of the volunteers), on a one week holiday. Many of the volunteers were from, or connected with, the Northants Activity Group, the most notable exception being Maurizio, our Italian volunteer (soon renamed 'macaroni cheese' by those kids slower or less eager to master Italian names).

Several days were spent on site using the available facilities as well as painting and playing numerous games and sports. Our attempts to wear the kids out also included a nature trail combined with



On the last day the Toc H kids competed in various activities against teams of Scouts, Cubs and Guides. Despite some initial lack of enthusiasm and cries of 'I don't wanna do it', we ended the day with 1st and 3rd prizes in the archery, and our football team was only put out by the eventual winners. Our assault course team did well, all completing the



This was my first project and I really enjoyed it. I also learnt much from it – including the child's vast capacity for falling over, making noise, sulking, disliking food and squabbling over the rules of games as diverse as volley ball and playing at being Robin Hood. Would I do it again? – I'd love to, but please, can I have a good sleep first?

The Lighting of the Lamp

by Revd
Allan Toop

Neville Talbot

War was no stranger to Neville Talbot – he had fought under his uncle, the Commander-in-Chief, General Lytton, in the Boer War, thus putting off his university entrance until 1903. The outbreak of war, 11 years later, found both Neville and his brother Keble in Holy Orders, and so, neither being able to dissociate themselves from the struggle, they both volunteered to serve as army chaplains.

They moved to the front on 28 August 1914, Neville remaining a chaplain until the war ended, and in October 1916 becoming Assistant Chaplain General to the Fifth Army. Neville was both observant and honest and was soon asking why the Church of England was making so little impression upon the men. His conclusion was that the training and experience of the average Anglican priest was such that it removed him from the field of operation of ordinary men – hardly following in Christ's own footsteps. Such padres found themselves to be for the most part totally irrelevant. Both Neville and Keble looked with some admiration at the Roman Catholic Church with its clear teaching and a prayer life that was so much more appropriate to the private soldier than the Book of Common Prayer. Things were no better in the Navy. The Chaplain of the 'Warspite' wrote in 1915:

'Two things are brought home to me through this war. Firstly, that an ordinary Anglican religion won't do: it doesn't save souls in any volume. That is sufficient condemnation, therefore it must be scrapped. Secondly, that the only forms of religion in the Anglican Communion which have any life in them are the Evangelical and the Sacramental.'

It shocked Neville to discover that religion and the everyday world had become so separated (to some extent he had led a sheltered life since ordination having spent five years as the chaplain of an Oxford college.) He began to toy with ideas of worker-priests, and other non-stipendiary variations, which might enable such men to keep their theological thinking firmly grounded in ordinary life. It is rather ironic that it is only relatively recently that such ideas have become generally accepted. Neville's sympathy was completely with the common man who was forced to seek the goodness of Christ through the camouflage of contradiction and cant that was the established Church. He felt that the

Church itself was responsible for so many men of real Christian virtue uncommitted to or even unaware of, Jesus Christ himself.

Neville was very much a man of the people: he was not patronising, his love was genuine and, as such, it called for a response from others. He never left others to go where he would not go himself, and in January 1916 he was awarded the Military Cross for bravery. On meeting him on their way back from the line, the men of his battalion lifted their caps aloft on their fixed bayonets and cheered him – perhaps that meant more to Neville than the medal itself.

The Old House

It was in the Ypres Salient that Philip Clayton came to work under Neville. Together they negotiated rental of a house in Poperinge and set about converting it into a club for soldiers. They called it Talbot House after Neville's younger brother Gilbert, who recently had been killed in action. It did not remain Talbot House for long though, for, as its fame spread, it became more widely known by the signallers shorthand title 'Toc H'.

The house was a refuge from the horror of war, where men could feel that humanity did still exist. The Clayton touch was a light one and the house was filled with notices such as *'If you are in the habit of spitting on the carpet at home, please spit here'*. On the Chaplain's officer door was written *'Abandon rank all ye who enter here'*. Tubby himself wrote of the place, *'It was a home from home where friendship could be consecrated, and sad hearts renewed and cheered, a place of light and joy and brotherhood and peace'*.

In the loft was a chapel – the altar was an old carpenter's bench, hung about with cloths sent out by Neville's father, Edward Talbot, Bishop of Winchester. In keeping with Neville's commitment to bring priest and people closer together, there was no altar rail or pulpit.

By living out the Gospel, the staff of Toc H renewed and refreshed their visitors to the extent that they began the Easter Day communion for 1916 at 5.30 am and celebrated ten times during that day – such was the need. Many received God's call in the Poperinge 'Upper Room': some were baptised,

We reprint below a talk given recently to Bedford Branch by their Padre, Allan Toop. It is included in this issue as it seems appropriate in this 70th Year of the Movement, to refresh memories of the earliest days. Alan's research covered books not normally included on Toc H 'booklists', and is the more valuable for it.

others made their first confessions, some found vocations to the priesthood. In May 1916 37 men were confirmed in the faith there by the ageing Archbishop of Canterbury to the accompanying rumble of heavy artillery and the rhythm of marching feet.

The Early Movement

After the war was over, Tubby reflected on his experiences and talked them over with his cousin, Dick Sheppard, the vicar of St Martin's-in-the-Fields. He knew that something too precious to lose had been fostered in Poperinge, and his cousin encouraged him to put his thoughts down in writing to see if he could capture other imaginations, and so establish a London House. His article was published in the 'St Martin's Messenger' in April 1919 and brought forward donations amounting to £10,000 from two St Martin's worshippers. At the end of the year, Tubby left his job with the Knutsford 'pre-theological college' to devote himself to the new Toc H vision. The first house was so successful that a second, also in London, soon followed, and in 1920 Tubby began to campaign across the country for the establishment of a network of houses.

In a mere two years Toc H had been established as a force in church and nation. Tubby Clayton was appointed vicar of All Hallows by the Tower so as to provide a Spiritual centre for the Movement which had now become so much more than a fellowship for ex-servicemen. Toc H now aimed to pass on the points of the compass, fellowship, service, fairmindedness and the Kingdom of God, to new generations. As the patron, the Prince of Wales implied, to let the Movement die would have been to diminish the sacrifice of those who fell in the war, for this organisation was *'one of the best things of its kind emerging from the years of sacrifice'*.

It was the Prince who donated the first lamp, based on a type used in the primitive Christian community of the Roman catacombs. On the lamp was inscribed the double cross of the arms of Ypres as a reminder of Toc H's birth in the Ypres salient. This lamp, however, was not to be a lamp of memorial, but rather a symbol of an on-going reality. Replicas were sent out to all Branches so that every meeting could begin with the Ceremony of Light with which we are all familiar.



International Youth Year 1985

by Adam LeBor, IYY England



What do musician Paul Weller, actress Julie Walters, athlete Brendan Foster, multi-millionaire the Duke of Westminster, the leaders of the Labour, SDP and Liberal parties, together with the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher all have in common? Answer — they have all pledged their support for United Nations International Youth Year 1985. Paul Weller and Julie Walters are co-presidents of the Year, the Duke of Westminster is Patron and the Prime Minister is one of the host of politicians, celebrities, athletes and personalities who have expressed their support for IYY.

The UN General Assembly has designated 1985 as International Youth Year because of, in their own words, *'The international community's growing concern with the situation of youth' and 'in recognition of the important contribution young people can make in shaping and designing the future of humanity'*. One of the main objectives of IYY is to highlight the specific needs and aspirations of young people aged between 15 and 25. The Year will allow for a detailed look at the role of young people in society and the many problems they face — chronic unemployment, bad housing and institutionalised sexism and racism.

When the original lamp and the first 40 replicas were lit in the Guildhall, amongst the two thousand people present were the Bishops Edward and Neville Talbot, creating a direct and poignant link with Gilbert, in whose memory the original house in Poperinge had been named.

The real spirit of Toc H can perhaps be best gathered from the words of an ex-sapper who joined the 1931 Clayton Easter pilgrimage to the Poperinge house (purchased for the organisation in 1926). He describes how, as he knelt in the Upper Room, he felt that he was *'standing in the presence of a great company of free men, free through Christ, and in some way their agony linked up with his . . . There was the sense of being uplifted in that great company, my unworthiness to be of that company eliminated'*.

Bibliography

- | | |
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| F H Brabant — | Neville Stuart Talbot |
| Walter Carey — | Goodbye to My Generation |
| Philip Clayton — | Tales of Talbot House |
| G K A Bell — | Randall Davidson |
| Tresham Lever — | Clayton of Toc H |
| Alan Wilkinson — | The Church of England & the First World War |

Of course a UN declaration will not magically eradicate the social problems that face young people, but the British government is supporting IYY and National Co-ordinating Committees have been set up in all four countries of the UK. As well as raising and examining social problems IYY will also be an opportunity to celebrate young peoples' achievements. Next April is National Youth Festival Week, a chance for young people from all over Britain to demonstrate their skills in music, song, dance, theatre, display and competition.

The UN has given IYY three themes — Participation, Development and Peace. IYY projects should be based on, or around, one of the three. Participation is about taking an active role in matters that affect young people. It means taking control and taking decisions that are listened to, and acted on. Participation must include disadvantaged young people, and young people who are discriminated against because of their colour, sex, creed or disability.

Development and Peace both have three aspects — Personal, Community and International. Personal Development is young people starting to realise their potential, a process of character growth. Personal Peace follows on from this — an ability to cope with difficulties such as bad housing or problems at home. At the Community and International levels Development and Peace are both linked. The arms race, superpower tension, poverty, starvation and violence between different ethnic groups are all part of the same whole. IYY aims to increase young peoples' ability and opportunities to work for Peace and Development, in Britain and all over the world.

As well as IYY's three themes, the English Co-ordinating Committee (NCC) has formulated 33 aims for the year. These are not intended as a rigid plan for action — rather they should be seen as offering a framework for local projects and ideas. The NCC's aims include *'challenging the inevitability of youth unemployment'*, understanding the causes of, and *'challenging racism'* and *'promoting improved housing provision for young people'*. Of course declarations and aims on their own will achieve nothing — for IYY to be a success the Year needs the active involvement and commitment of young people all over the country, indeed all over the world.

Over 100 local IYY groups have been formed in England alone and the emphasis of the year is very strongly on

local activities and projects. With Participation as one of the year's three themes it is important that young people play the major role in initiating, planning and carrying out IYY schemes and projects. This can be easier said than done; not all IYY groups have a full-time co-ordinator like Bedford's IYY Officer and only the lucky few receive a grant from local or city council. Most IYY groups have little, if any, money and fundraising and sponsorship is a major problem.

But even the smallest and poorest IYY group has an important role to play. National jamborees and one-off celebratory events are important in focussing attention on young people, but local and community projects that will have a lasting effect are more important. Nottingham IYY are planning to convert a disused building into a centre for local young people and in London Brent IYY have planned events throughout the Year including religious forums to bring young people of different faiths together, a mobile exhibition, live music gigs and a series of sports events.

In Derbyshire, where there is a large Punjabi community the IYY group is organising an expedition to the Punjab to undertake construction work there. In return 20 young Punjabis will visit Derbyshire. In Sussex 'Fruition', an IYY street project is underway — Fruition is a mini resource centre providing a meeting place and community and resource centre for local young people. These are just a few of the hundreds of IYY projects that will be underway next year.

New IYY groups spring up all the time and they can use your help and commitment. Although IYY is aimed at those between 15 and 25 older people can still make a valuable contribution by contacting their local IYY group and offering their time and experience.

All four NCCs publish material on IYY and IYY England has a monthly newsletter 'Spark' available, together with a starter pack. Both are free to interested individuals although bulk orders of the Starter Pack are 40p each exclusive of post. 'Spark' examines the issues that affect young people and takes a look at local and national projects underway. The Starter Pack includes three posters and leaflets on IYY's themes and a list of 'Ideas for Action' for local groups. Contact IYY England at 57 Chalton Street, London NW1. Tel: 01 387 4777.

Welcome Open Forum

The following new members were registered during December:

- Alloa (J)**
Miss Norah Suttie
- Bedford (J)**
Mrs Beryl Ferguson
Mrs Joan Shankland
- Belfairs (W)**
Mrs Dulcie Fisher
Mrs Pat Standley
- Bingham (J)**
Mrs Evelyn Sinclair
Stephen D Smith
Mrs Catherine C Thomas
James B Whyley
Mrs Joan Whyley
- Buckingham (M)**
Charles F Beckett
- Budleigh Salterton (M)**
Simon L Rock
- Cambridge (J)**
Wallace J B Mullins
- Eyemouth (J)**
James Dougal
Revd Alan Robinson
- Gorleston (J)**
Mrs Cynthia Thompson
- Greathouse (J)**
Margerie Harrison
Mrs June Sedgwell
- Headingley (W)**
Mrs Vera Hornsby
- Huddersfield District**
The Revd Canon Ian C Knox
- Milford-on-Sea (J)**
Miss Winifred B Walker
- Northants Action (J) Group**
Christopher D Lewis
- Northants District**
The Revd Ronald F Cottingham
Simon Cottingham
- Orston (J)**
Geoffrey Bell
- Seaford (J)**
Thomas P Walker
- Western Approaches & Chiltern Vale District**
Andy J Wright

A warm welcome to 27 new members

Also welcome to Win Ward, who has started work as a long term volunteer in the South East Region and will be working in Dunstable, alongside Tracy Hammond, who is already serving there as a volunteer.

Congratulations!

to Harry Brier, from Huddersfield, who was elected Chairman of the new Central Executive Committee at its first meeting, in December. Jim Lewis was elected Vice-Chairman.

Central Council

I sat through my first Central Council at Swanwick with 100 young people listening to all the speakers, young and old. In enthusiasm and fluency the young came first every time. As a mother of five young people I love their energy and their honesty, and especially their enthusiasm. However, I received a very strong feeling that we were being wrapped up in brown paper and made into neat little parcels and put on to the top shelf of the corner cupboard, and conveniently forgotten. We still have a wealth of experience and a deep insight of this wonderful Toc H Movement of ours, so I say to all the young people who love this Movement as I do *'Use our experience and build on our insight. It's great to have new ideas and lot's of enthusiasm but use the foundation that has been proved to be strong and lasting and in this International Year of Youth you will be showing us what great things you can do in the name of Toc H.'*

Edith White
Street, Somerset

The Christian basis

The letter in the May issue of *Point Three* from Jim Lewis, prompts me to write. Working as I do with a wide spectrum of all races and colours, many of whom are

only 'paper' Christians, or members of other faiths; I feel that it is imperative to keep an open door for those whose lives have not been committed to His service. Also I believe that as Christians we are bound to love and pray that all men will in time learn to know Christ as Lord, not as a ruler, but as a loving brother and friend. St Monica prayed for many years for her son's conversion and what a wonderful example St Augustine gave to the world in the end. So pray for all the 'Janes' and love them into knowledge and service.

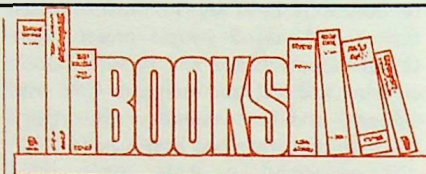
Miss C E M Hixon
Pretoria, SA

Variety is the Spice of Life

Last year, when I took part in my first mass CND rally and march in London protesting against Cruise missiles, I was quite amazed at the diversity of organisations represented, and by the great variety, colour and shape of the banners carried. Many trade unions were represented, Health Service Workers (my home team), Quakers naturally, assorted Christian bodies, Buddhists and breathtakingly Ex-Services (Mens' and Womens') CND! I had previously, in my ignorance, regarded CND as a somewhat cranky, pacifist organisation and could not honestly agree with that philosophy.



Soon after a recent garden party at Talbot House, Poperinge, the large walnut tree in the garden fell down. Ivy Swan supervises its removal. Fortunately there was no damage or injury, and there are plenty of healthy trees left.



More Bridges of Love

Phil Mason has been at it again — tracking down those very special people who influence the lives of others who have the good fortune to rub shoulders with them.

Faith and courage shine through these seven short biographies as an inspiration to us all. Again we see how the misfortunes of a few are somehow transformed into hope and love.

Names familiar to most of us are Eamonn Andrews, and Mother Frances Dominica (founder of Helen House, Oxford); also featured are Revd Canon John Colebrook, Josephine Hilton, Revd David Winwood, 'Jeff', and 'Father Bill'.

Specially recommended for those who may be feeling sorry for themselves, this is a splendid booklet priced at 95p from bookshops, or £1.10 from Norheimsund Books & Cards, 1 Whitney Road, Burton Latimer, Kettering, Northants NN15 5SL.

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

But there were old soldiers, sailors and airmen and some not so old, but ex-Service, behind the banner. I am proud to say I have joined their ranks and having been granted a British Legion Pass hope to be among the ranks of ex-Service members at this year's Remembrance Day Parade in Whitehall. So far there is no Toc H contingent of CND, as far as I know, but there is no earthly reason against one being formed. For anyone eligible and keen to join, the address to apply for ex-Service CND Membership is 15 Mangotsfield Road, Mangotsfield, Bristol, Avon.

Richard Crump
Carshalton

The Plus Bus

The Plus Bus committee wish to apologise if any misunderstanding has arisen as to whether a PSV licence is required and how many passengers can be carried.

The Bus is insured as a Leyland Mobile Caravan and can be driven on a normal car licence provided that the vehicle does not carry more than eight passengers (excluding the driver). Carrying more than eight passengers will invalidate our insurance regardless of what type of licence the driver may possess.

For the 1985 session we hope to

have a public address system installed in the Bus, something we have always needed. This is being paid for by C and A charities.

The committee hope that the bus will be widely used during 1985, it is one of the best publicity aids we have and serves as a good focal point for garden parties, fetes etc.

As from 1 January 1985 the contributions paid by the Plus Bus users will be:

	Toc H users	Others
Daily charge		
Deposit	£25.00	£40.00
Charge/mile	40p	60p
Daily charge	£ 1.00	£ 5.00

Our best wishes to everyone and we hope to hear from you in the near future.

Peter Claxton
Sheffield

Booking secretary is: Mrs Carol Newbould, 254 Psalters Lane, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S Yorks S61 1PH.

The Old House

After spending two weeks recently at the Old House, I thought it might be a good idea to tell you how easy it is to get there by train since June 1984. If you go to

Oostende you can get a direct train to Kortrijk. From the arrival platform (4) you cross to platform 2 for the Poperinge train. As you have a 30 minute wait, you could pop into the Kortrijk buffet. The times are at regular hourly intervals as follows:

	First	Last
Oostende	05.11	19.11
Kortrijk (a)	06.13	20.13
Kortrijk (d)	06.44	20.44
Poperinge	07.31	21.31

(There is a service from Zeebrugge but it gives a poor connection and takes almost an hour longer.)

Belgian Rail does a tourist ticket called five over 16, which means that you can travel on any five days in a period of 16 days. The cost is 1350 BF (second class) and there are other special offers.

A word of warning! Follow instructions carefully or you could face a 600 BF fine. If in doubt, ask the train crew (most speak English) before you board the train.

I would recommend this method of seeing Belgium.

For further details contact Belgian National Railways, 22/25A Sackville Street, London W1X 1DE (Tel 01 734 1491).

Jackie Davidson
Gillingham

PHABulous Journeys

Dorcas Munday is a severely handicapped spastic leading an exciting, happy, life. This is her third book — written by means of a mouth-controlled typewriter. She also paints, loves people, and has travelled more widely than many able-bodied.

Dorcas tells of her years at school; and of the difficulties in meeting people later in the 'outside world' which presented many a challenge. It is sad to read of such things as early encounters with people at specially organised events which '... unfortunately did not lead on to further associations and we tended to be treated as small children and pitied rather than being treated as equals'.

Her reaction to PHAB courses (Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied) was to participate in everything; 'I think you have to discover things and enjoy them in this way before you can begin to give anything in return'. But give in return Dorcas certainly does. Wherever she goes, in everything she does, she spreads the word that handicapped people need to be given opportunities to make choices. So often they are not given the chance to do things

which the able-bodied take for granted — going to a theatre or cinema, having a meal in a restaurant, travelling by train or plane. It is assumed that they are not capable of attempting these activities, so they can become frustrated and inward-looking. Dorcas is fighting against this attitude.

She has taken her wheelchair to America, twice to Canada, and to the Holy Land — all within the space of four years.

Dorcas started a PHAB club in Kettering in 1975, and many have been helped through her experiences. Here is a very determined, intelligent, active and happy young woman.

The Rt Hon Angus Ogilvy has written the Foreword to PHABulous Journeys, published by Dorcas Munday, 'Dale Cottage', 129 Midland Road, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN8 1NB. Price £2.45 inc P & P.

Eileen Clark

It's New!

'Tubby Clayton — A Calendar of Wisdom'

by Revd J F L Durham

John Durham was asked by Tubby to become his literary Executor. Part of what Tubby wanted was that John should make a final selection of his writings. This is that final selection, arranged in calendar form with one page for each week of the year.

The book is available (price 50p a copy) from: Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In November

Walter Edward Bellamy (Market
Harborough)
William Vernon Bostock (Gloucestershire
North District)
John Champion (Greathouse)
Herbert Henry Dunscombe (Trowbridge)
Alexander Hassell (Trowbridge)
Stanley Kaye (Newsome)
Frederick Elliott Miles (Purton)
Miss Marion Thompson (Leciester)
Mrs May Waddingham (Mansfield
Woodhouse)

May Waddingham, a member of Mansfield Woodhouse (J) Branch died in September, age 73. Roger Maywood writes: 'She had been a faithful member for over 20 years. Quiet and unassuming, she always liked to be in the background, but always came forward when any jobs required doing. She will be missed very much by us all'.

We are sad to have to report the death, on 3 October, at Trivandrum, of Justin S Jesudhasan, Deputy Commissioner of Toc H in India. We hope in due course to print a tribute from his friends in Toc H India.

We have been informed of the death of James Fletcher of Colchester, in October. James was a member of Colchester Branch for over 40 years, and in that time held office as Pilot and Chairman.

Joan Bailey, of Newcastle, Staffs writes of Grace Powner, 'she was a patient for almost 40 years at Bradwell Hospital, Newcastle, where she died in April, aged 81. Toc H members from Stoke, and later Newcastle, visited her from the early days until her death. Grace was made a member in her hospital bed over 20 years ago by Dr Molly Rampling and contributed to Toc H funds by donating her tablecloths. Her patience, courage and perseverance inspired us all. Despite being paralysed except for her head and left hand, she taught herself to write and embroider. She regained her voice after much determined practice . . . We give thanks for her life and example and remember her with pride'.

In thanksgiving for her life, the local Branch presented a tea-trolley to the hospital in memory of Grace.

Our January issue carried a notice of the death of Seymour de Lotbiniere. He was a Vice-President of the Movement, and a much loved personality from the earliest days, when he was one of the first London Marksmen. He worked for the BBC for 35 years until his retirement in 1968, and was a pioneer in the field of outside broadcasts. He was also instrumental in arranging the 'This is Your Life' programme which featured Tubby Clayton in 1958. Brandon Branch in Suffolk, where he retired, write to say how great a loss this is for the town.

We are very sad to report the sudden death in November of Revd Keith Hudson, who was ordained this year to a parish in Middlesbrough, having been



Photo: Avril Green

Barbara Andrews and Edith White of Street and Glastonbury Branch hard at work at a Senior Citizens party in September.



Mrs Jillian Westropp, wife of Brigadier E M Westropp, formally opens the new Ladies Hairdressing Salon in the Toc H Services Club, Paderborn. With Mrs Westropp is Judith Jackson, the hairdresser.

assisted in his training by the Tubby Clayton Fund. We send our prayers to his wife Margaret and their three children.

Dorothy Crockett of Taunton writes of Mrs E M Burrows, 'She became a general member in 1926, and then in 1929, was a founder member of the League of Women Helpers, and one of its most active members . . . Some years ago she visited Australia, and was instrumental in founding the thriving Branch at Bribie Island, with whom we keep in touch . . . She was dearly loved by us all, and we miss her wonderful sense of humour and quiet, witty remarks'.

Joan Macintosh of Loughton (W) Branch writes: 'Edith Huskinson, who died in November, was a member of Loughton (W) Branch for 23 years, since the Branch was formed. She was a nursing sister, and her husband, Roland, was a medical worker, and they both worked for LEpra. They married in a LEpra colony. She also worked in Uganda, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. She retired two years ago to West Mersea, and always joined in wholeheartedly with Branch activities'.

We give thanks for their lives

The Friends of Alison House

Extract from the Audited Statement of Accounts, Year Ending 30 September 1984

Income	£	p	Expenditure	£	p
To			By		
Balance at 1 October 1983	1,040.17		Bulbs and Shrubs	64.47	
Donations, Efforts and			Towards: Bathroom Carpets and		
Sales	1,034.13		Lounge Lighting	746.44	
Donations in memory of			Washbasins	253.56	
Archie Berry (for Garden			Chairs	500.00	
Table)	22.50		Cups	1.95	
Interest	43.46		Staff Gifts	39.03	
			Wedding Present (Vanessa)	15.00	
			Postage and Printing	10.47	
			Total Expenditure	1,630.92	
			Balance	509.34	
	2,140.26			2,140.26	

Please Note

Easier Travel for the Elderly

Age Concern are launching a major campaign to try and persuade the Government to make travel easier for the elderly. They want a national, uniform, concessionary fare scheme. They are also pressing for sufficient porters and luggage trolleys to be available at British Rail stations, and for the Government to make exempt from VAT minibuses purchased for charitable work.

Two new leaflets are available, from Age Concern England, 60 Pitcairn Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3LL, if one sends a sae. They are 'Getting Together with Age Concern' for anyone who wants to help combat isolation among the elderly, and 'Getting Out and About for Retired People' which gives useful advice.

If these are issues on which readers feel strongly, a letter to your local MP may well help.

Christianline A new telephone service

British Telecom has launched a new service, which provides a daily recorded Christian message. Some of these are recorded by our Chaplain, Frank Topping, as well as others by well known Christian leaders such as Cardinal Hume, The Rt Revd John Taylor, and Archbishop Worlock.

In addition, there is a follow-up Christian counselling service. The service is non-denominational, and is backed by the major churches.

Already, over 100,000 calls have been made, and many people have been given counselling help.

The numbers to ring are:
LONDON - 01 246 8040
LIVERPOOL - 051 246 8040
CAMBRIDGE - 0223 8040

For further information, contact Mrs Katharina Steel, Christianline, 4 Cromwell Crescent, London SW5.

BE STILL then....

Should you require Bible Reading Fellowship Notes and find difficulty in obtaining them at your local church, we can send them from here. The Publications Department at Wendover now has copies of 'Joyful Journey' - the replacement volume for 'Yours is the Glory', which is out of print. The price is £1 (+ 50p p & p). The Chaplain will send you the complete list of daily intercessions on request. (Revised October 1984.)

In 1956 a few Toc H members of various denominations met for a weekend retreat at Bordon in Hampshire. Their concern that Toc H members should be encouraged to reflect deeply on the work they do within Toc H led, among other things, to the production of a regular quarterly 'Bordon Letter' which continues to this day.

BORDON LETTER by John Weaver

'Let's play I spy' came from the rear passenger seat as we travelled back toward Northamptonshire from South Wales, through a rainy and misty night. 'I spy something beginning with "c" - "car"; "clouds"; "cottage"; "church"; "crying baby" (no she's asleep); "cows" ("Where can you see cows? It's dark!") - "Well there probably are some in those fields)". 'We give up. What is it?' - "cat's eyes". All along the road, cat's eyes, all the way from South Wales giving us a path to follow, picked out like a row of tiny light bulbs in the beam of the headlights. How simple and yet how important are those little pieces of glass set in rubber blocks along the centre of the road. Every motorist owes much to their inventor. We see the cat's eyes stretching out into the distance and we know that the road is straight; we see them curving one way or another and we know that there is a bend ahead and we need to slow down. We realise the benefit that they bring when we find ourselves on a road without them - then we have to travel much more slowly to be safe, because we cannot judge speed or direction as easily. On dual-carriageways and motorways white cat's eyes separate the lanes, red ones mark the nearside edge of the road, and orange ones the central reservation; what an invaluable help they are in judging our position on the road, especially in fog, or in the water sprayed up by heavy lorries on a wet night.

There is something comforting and friendly about cat's eyes - out in front leading us homeward. When David, nearly 3,000 years ago, wrote: 'The Lord is my shepherd', he had a similar picture in mind, of the shepherd in front of the sheep leading them to good pasture, fresh water, along safe paths, protecting in times of danger and death, and leading them home. This is how David experienced God - out in front like the shepherd. And Jesus said, 'I am the good

shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep'. Jesus is our shepherd, who has died for us, who is out in front leading us through death to an everlasting home life with Him. Therefore one New Testament writer said, 'Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, and he is now seated at the right hand side of God's throne'. (Hebrews 12.2.)

We in Toc H pledge ourselves to strive: to listen now and always for the voice of God. To know His will revealed in Christ and to do it fearlessly, reckoning nothing of the world's opinion or its successes for ourselves or this our family; and towards this end: to think fairly, to love widely, to witness humbly, to build bravely.

Week by week in our Branch meetings we say: 'Let your light so shine before men that they see your good works . . . and glorify our Father which is in heaven'. In our service of rededication we find these words:

Padre: What is this?
Members: The Light of Toc H
Padre: What first lit it?
Members: Unselfish sacrifice
Padre: What alone will maintain it?
Members: Unselfish service
Padre: What is service?
Members: The rent we pay for our room on earth.

Our light is Jesus' death and resurrection, and our response is to deny self and take up our own cross and follow Him.

There are so many distractions along the road - houses, streets, shops, lights going in different directions, bright lights shining in our eyes - and so we try to keep our eyes fixed on those cat's eyes leading us homeward. On life's road with all its distractions, its pleasures, its sad times, and pressures - we need to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

In Toc H our focus is firmly fixed on the light of Christ Jesus, allowing His light to shine through us, so that we may be cat's eyes for others to find their way home to God.

TOC H NEEDS MORE MONEY

It is needed partly to meet the normal costs of running the Movement, but, more important, it is needed to do new work, and to involve new people.

The CEC offered a new Development Strategy to the Central Council who adopted it overwhelmingly. It is a strategy to extend the family by investing in the younger generation. Let's give them the money to do it. That means all of us pulling together.

We want all Branches, Groups, Districts, odd members, everybody including the staff at Wendover to make a special effort. Hold an event and send the proceeds to Wendover and tell them it's your contribution to:

FESTIVAL FUND-DRIVE

Do anything. Jumble sales, knit-ins, sponsored pogo-stick rallies — anything. Just make one big effort and send the money in. We are not asking you to reduce your existing commitments to family purse, projects or anything else. Just give the Movement one extra but special effort. It's up to us. TOC H has given us much. Now is the time to give something back. We want to set aside a special fortnight for this effort in Festival year so make a note in your diaries now:

FESTIVAL FUND-DRIVE FORTNIGHT

30 June - 13 July 1985

For those who may suspect that this is a crafty Headquarters play to get you to toss your money down a bottomless pit — it's not. This advert has been paid for by a Branch 'out in the sticks' who love this Movement and will not see it disappear for the want of mere money. Send your money to Wendover. If you wish, you can earmark it for 'development' or for 'General Funds'.

WILL YOU PLEDGE YOUR BRANCH OR GROUP OR DISTRICT TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF TOC H?

PLEASE TELL US. WE WANT TO LINK HANDS RIGHT ACROSS THE COUNTRY

PHONE: 0493 720086

NOW PLEASE

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

Talbot House, Poperinge

At the end of November 1985, Charles and Ivy Swan will be retiring as Honorary Staff, resident at the Old House. We would like the present successful basis of staffing to be

developed. If anyone under the age of 60 years is interested in this important post please write to: The International Secretary, Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT

Christian Singles. Social events, nationwide. Friendship contacts, weekend houseparties, fellowship groups. Holidays, home/abroad. Christian Friendship Fellowship, Dept B23, Edenthorpe, Doncaster.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.